

RESOLUTION NO. 6565

A RESOLUTION rejecting the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 1710 and adopting the provisions of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International "Standard of Coverage" as the City of Bellevue model for fire department resource deployment.

WHEREAS, the Fire Department of the City of Bellevue is one of only forty-three fire departments in the United States that has achieved the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) "Accredited Status"; and

WHEREAS, the CFAI accreditation model is based on empirical study and demonstrated continuous improvement strategies that include deployment considerations, minimum response times, and standard of coverage assessments; and

WHEREAS, the accreditation model was jointly developed by the International City/County Managers Association and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International after more than 10 years of study, review and analysis, which included extensive site testing and verification; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2001, the membership of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) voted to adopt NFPA Standard 1710 as a mandatory standard that defines minimum response times to all fires and emergency medical services (EMS) incidents, minimum fire company and emergency medical advanced life support staffing levels, initial alarm response levels and additional alarm response levels to all fires; and

WHEREAS, NFPA Standard 1710 mandating minimum staffing levels and deployment locations is not based on any known national or local empirical data, scientific studies, or demonstrated need for all communities; and

WHEREAS, levels of service delivery for fire and emergency medical services traditionally have been determined by local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, NFPA Standard 1710 would impose unnecessary and onerous unfunded mandates upon local governments to meet the staffing and deployment levels established therein; and

WHEREAS, the NFPA has exceeded its authority in proposing these national fire deployment standards for staffing and response times; and

WHEREAS, NFPA standards are voluntary and must be adopted by local jurisdictions before they become effective; and

WHEREAS, adopting NFPA 1710 would force the City of Bellevue to shift financial resources from current effective fire prevention and life safety education programs to fire suppression activities, potentially increasing the risk of fire and the danger to firefighters and the community; and

WHEREAS, the historical performance results of the Bellevue Fire Department support the approach that the City of Bellevue has taken in applying and providing fire protection and emergency medical services for the community; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of Bellevue hereby rejects NFPA Standard 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments, relating to mandatory deployment levels for fire department services.

Section 2. The City of Bellevue hereby adopts the provisions of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International "Standard of Coverage" and the continuous improvement accreditation model, as published by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International in its "Fire and Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual," 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, or as hereafter amended, which is currently being used by the City for the deployment of Bellevue Fire Department resources, as the official policy of the City for determining fire resource deployment.

Passed by the City Council this 9th day of July, 2001, and signed in authentication of its passage this 9th day of July, 2001.

(SEAL)

Chuck Mosher, Mayor

Attest:

Myrna L. Basich., City Clerk